

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

Phone: 304.623.3397 email: cfumc@citynet.net

Rev. Michael O. Atkinson, Lead Pastor

Rev. Harry Jenkins, Associate Pastor

"A Holy, Healthy, and Loving Community Striving to Know Christ and to Make Christ Known"



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2020

"A CANDLELIGHT CELEBRATION"

WORDS OF WELCOME----- Rev. Harry Jenkins

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES----- Audra Skidmore
PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP----- Rev. Jenkins

Leader: The people who once lived in darkness have been given a great light!
People: **Praise be to God who has heard our cries.**
Leader: Our souls sing out God's praise!
People: **God has brought us a light of Hope and Peace.**
Leader: Tonight, in this place, the Light of God's Love is given to us!
People: **And we shall see that light and let it shine through our lives.**
ALL: **AMEN.**

OPENING CAROL-----" O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" [Refrain]**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; [Refrain]**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7-----Rev. Jenkins

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING ----- Becky, Robert, and Audra Skidmore

As we journeyed through the Advent season, we lit the candles of Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love. Tonight, we light those candles again to remind us that we can experience love, joy, and peace in our lives through the hope we find in Christ Jesus.

(Light the Candles of Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love.)

On this night, we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the light He brings to a dark world. Scripture tells us that through Christ's birth the people who walk in darkness will see a great light. And, those who dwell in the land of deep darkness – on them, light shines.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder. His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. And, best of all, He is called Emmanuel, for through him God is with us!

This evening, we light the Christ candle to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world and as we journey home this Christmas, we find light and life in Christ.

(Light the Christ Candle.)

CHRISTMAS CAROL----- "Still, Still, Still" arr. David Naylor

Robert Skidmore, violin; Dr. Scott, piano

PASTORAL PRAYER-----Rev. Jenkins

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

HYMN ----- "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-14 ----- Rev. Jenkins

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration, taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

CHRISTMAS CAROL ----- "What Child Is This" arr. A.E. Adams

Robert Skidmore, violin; Dr. Scott, piano

MEDITATION ----- "Coming Home for Christmas" -----Rev. Michael Atkinson

SONG ----- "O Holy Night"

*Brett Miller & Don Gardner, singers; Cyndi Shaver, signer
Dr. Jessica Scott, keyboard*

O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.

*Long lay the world in sin and error pining
til He appeared and the soul felt it's worth.*

*A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

*Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night divine! O night, O night divine!*

*Christ is the Lord! Praise, praise His name forever.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

HYMN -----"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

BENEDICTION ----- Rev. Jenkins

ORGAN POSTLUDE----- Dr. Scott

